A CITY BOY in THE WOODS

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

HON. WELLAND S. GEMMELL
MINISTER

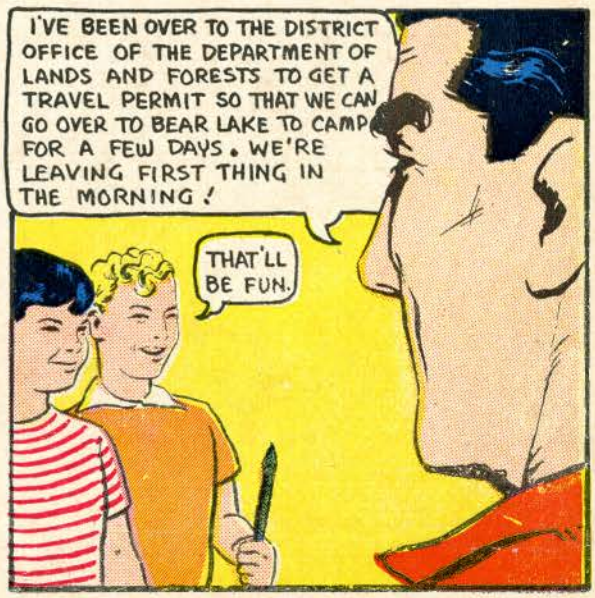
F. A. MacDOUGALL
DEPUTY MINISTER

TOM CARMICHAEL HAD SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS ELEVEN YEARS PLAYING IN THE CEMENT MAZE OF THE CITY, NOW HERE HE WAS TO SPEND A WHOLE MONTH HOLIDAYING IN THE GREAT GREEN FORESTS OF THE NORTH.

EVERYTHING WAS NEW AND DIFFERENT TO TOM — BARRY TOOK HIM ON RAMBLES THROUGH THE WOODS, POINTING OUT THE THINGS THAT TOM OVERLOOKED.

LOOK, TOM, DO YOU SEE THAT RED SQUIRREL IN THAT TREE?
THAT'S A BEAVER DAM — THEY KEEP STREAMS FLOWING AT AN EVEN RATE SO THEY WON'T DRY UP AND SPOIL FISHING.

BARRY! THAT IS A SPRUCE AND THIS IS A BALSAM- RIGHT?
YOU'RE LEARNING FAST, BUT COME ON DAD'S GOT SOME BIG NEWS FOR US.
THOSE ARE A RACOON'S TRACKS

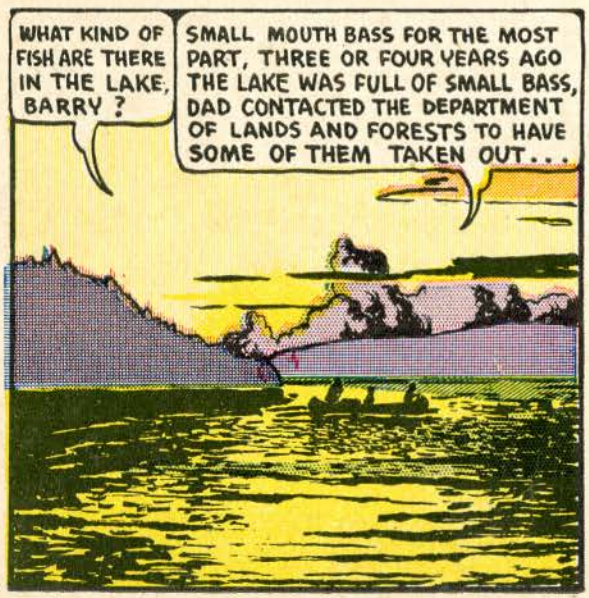

I'VE BEEN OVER TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS TO GET A TRAVEL PERMIT SO THAT WE CAN GO OVER TO BEAR LAKE TO CAMP FOR A FEW DAYS. WE'RE LEAVING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
THAT'LL BE FUN.

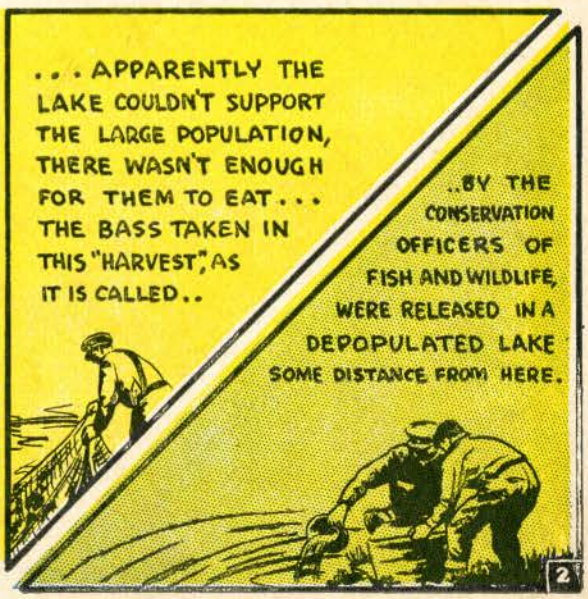
...BUT WHY DO WE NEED A TRAVEL PERMIT, UNCLE BOB?
WELL, AT THIS TIME OF YEAR CONDITIONS ARE JUST RIGHT FOR FOREST FIRES-THE WOODS ARE ALL DRIED UP AND THE AIR IS VERY DRY. PEOPLE IN THE BUSH CAUSE FIRES AND THE DEPARTMENT WHO ISSUES PERMITS KNOWS WHERE THESE PEOPLE ARE.

ARE FIRES VERY BAD IN THE BUSH UNCLE BOB?
I'M AFRAID THEY ARE, TOM. THE FIRST YEAR BARRY AND I CAME UP HERE THERE WAS A FOREST FIRE THAT BURNED FOR EIGHT DAYS AND DESTROYED HUNDREDS OF ACRES OF MATURE TREES... ....LET'S GO TO BED.!

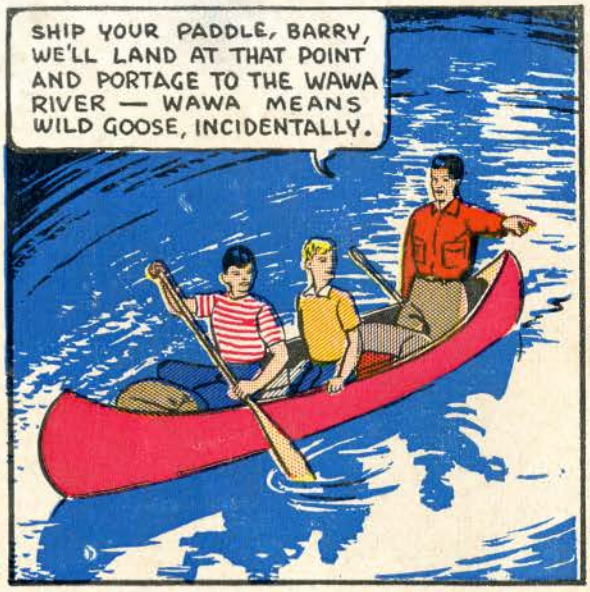
TOM, IN SPITE OF HIS ANTICIPATION, SLEPT WELL AND IT SEEMED AS IF HE HAD ONLY CLOSED HIS EYES FOR A MINUTE OR TWO BEFORE UNCLE BOB WAS SHAKING HIM TO WAKEFULNESS .....BREAKFAST WAS ALL READY..

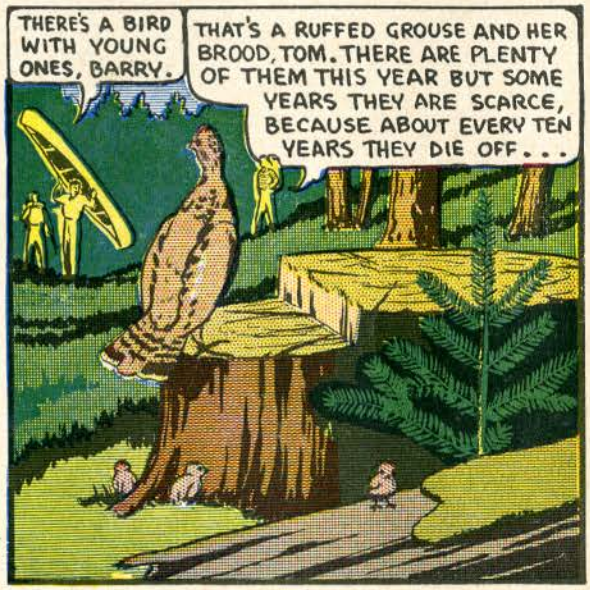
BE CAREFUL GETTING INTO THAT CANOE, TOM, NEVER JUST STEP IN, HOLD ONTO BOTH SIDES FOR BALANCE
YOU PADDLE IN THE BOW, BARRY!


WHAT KIND OF FISH ARE THERE IN THE LAKE, BARRY?
SMALL MOUTH BASS FOR THE MOST PART, THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO THE LAKE WAS FULL OF SMALL BASS, DAD CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS TO HAVE SOME OF THEM TAKEN OUT...

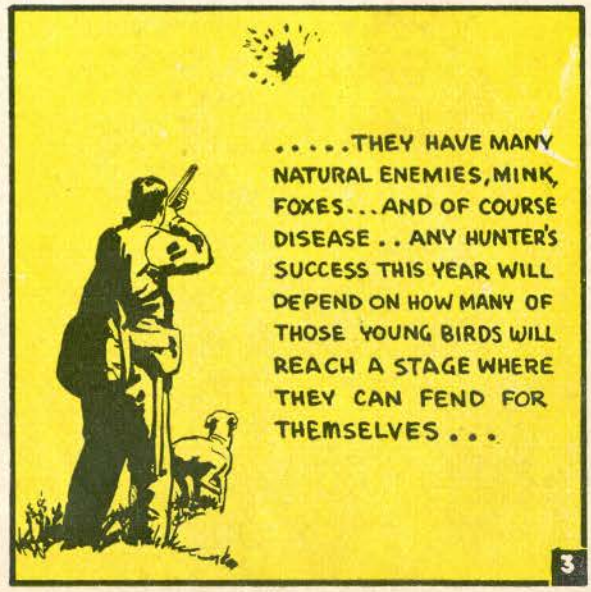

...APPARENTLY THE LAKE COULDN'T SUPPORT THE LARGE POPULATION, THERE WASN'T ENOUGH FOR THEM TO EAT... THE BASS TAKEN IN THIS "HARVEST", AS IT IS CALLED..
..BY THE CONSERVATION OFFICERS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, WERE RELEASED IN A DEPOPULATED LAKE SOME DISTANCE FROM HERE.

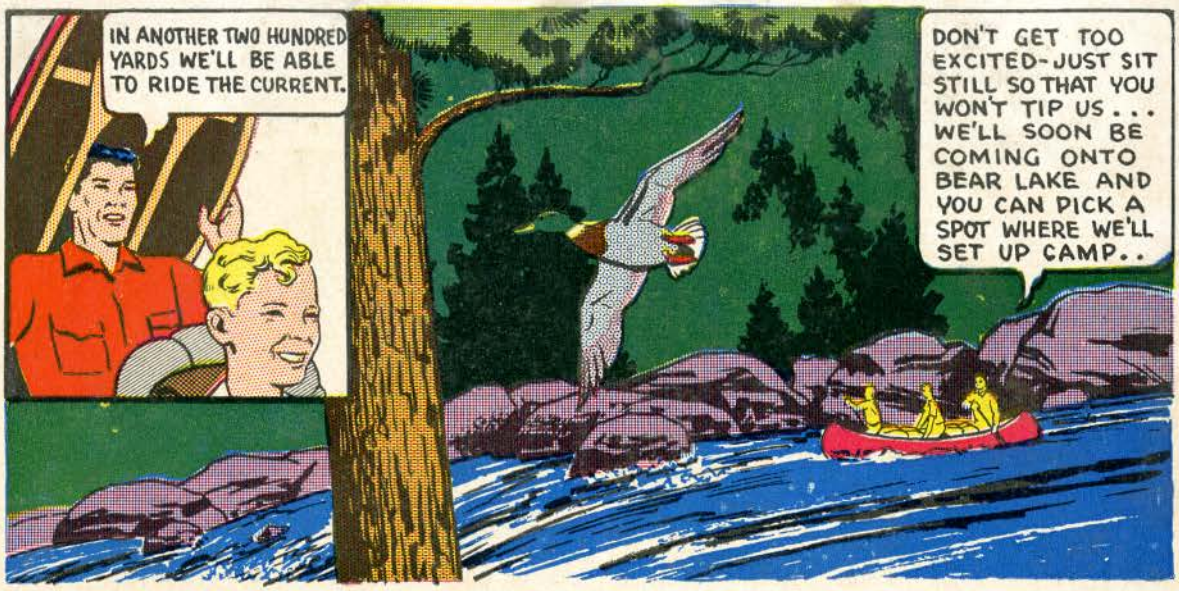
NOW, SINCE THEY'VE DONE ALL THAT, THERE'S VERY GOOD FISHING IN BOTH LAKES . . .


SHIP YOUR PADDLE, BARRY, WE'LL LAND AT THAT POINT AND PORTAGE TO THE WAWA RIVER — WAWA MEANS WILD GOOSE, INCIDENTALLY.

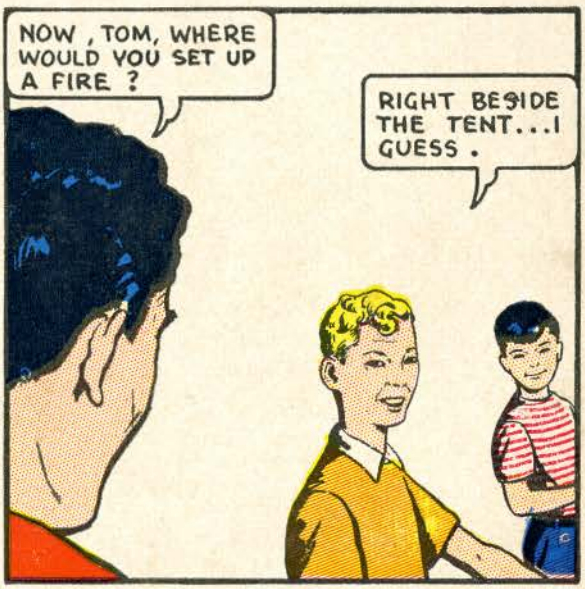

THERE'S A BIRD WITH YOUNG ONES, BARRY.
THAT'S A RUFFED GROUSE AND HER BROOD, TOM. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THEM THIS YEAR BUT SOME YEARS THEY ARE SCARCE, BECAUSE ABOUT EVERY TEN YEARS THEY DIE OFF . . .

YOU'LL NOTICE SHE HAD ABOUT A DOZEN "DOWNIES" BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY'LL ALL SURVIVE THE SUMMER . . . . . .


. . . . . THEY HAVE MANY NATURAL ENEMIES, MINK, FOXES . . . AND OF COURSE DISEASE . . ANY HUNTER'S SUCCESS THIS YEAR WILL DEPEND ON HOW MANY OF THOSE YOUNG BIRDS WILL REACH A STAGE WHERE THEY CAN FEND FOR THEMSELVES . . .

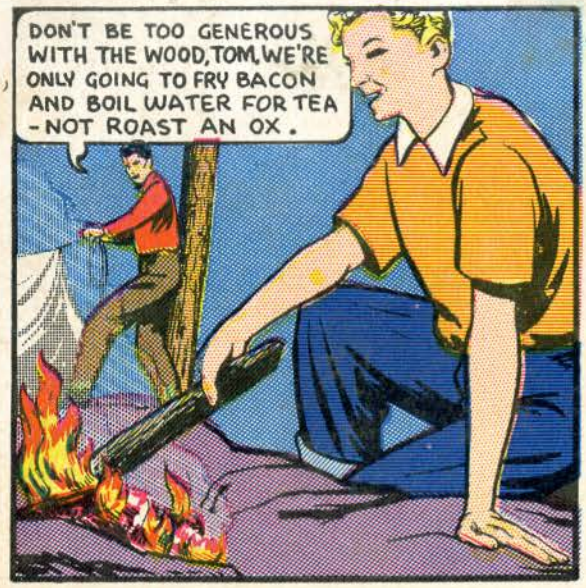

IN ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YARDS WE'LL BE ABLE TO RIDE THE CURRENT.
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED-JUST SIT STILL SO THAT YOU WON'T TIP US... WE'LL SOON BE COMING ONTO BEAR LAKE AND YOU CAN PICK A SPOT WHERE WE'LL SET UP CAMP..

LET'S LAND OVER THERE, UNCLE BOB, IT LOOKS TO BE A GREAT PLACE...
ALRIGHT, TOM, YOU'RE THE BOSS.....


NOW, TOM, WHERE WOULD YOU SET UP A FIRE ?
RIGHT BESIDE THE TENT...I GUESS.

IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY DISADVANTAGES...ONE BEING THAT IT'S TOO CLOSE TO THE BUSH AND MAY START A FIRE... BUILD IT RIGHT ON THE BEACH WHERE WE WON'T HAVE TO GO FAR FOR WATER TO PUT IT OUT..

FIRST WE'LL SCRAPE AWAY ALL THIS DRY TINDER SO THAT IT WON'T IGNITE AND CREEP INTO THE UNDERBRUSH.....
...SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO BUILD THEIR CAMP FIRES ON FLAT STONES BUT WHEN YOU POUR WATER ON THE FIRE THE HOT ROCK SPLITS IN SMALL EXPLOSIONS AND CHANCES ARE THAT PARTICLES OF HOT CARBON WILL BLOW INTO THE BUSH.


DON'T BE TOO GENEROUS WITH THE WOOD, TOM, WE'RE ONLY GOING TO FRY BACON AND BOIL WATER FOR TEA - NOT ROAST AN OX.

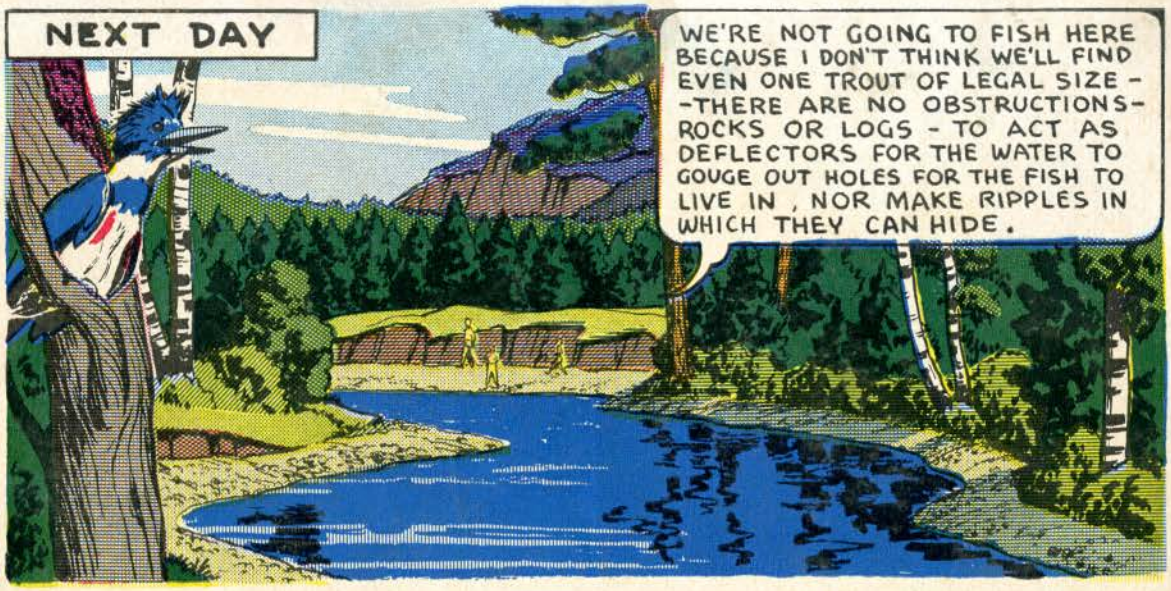
WE DON'T NEED THE FIRE ANYMORE SO WE'LL PUT IT OUT - YOU CAN POUR ON PLENTY OF WATER BUT IT DOESN'T DO MUCH GOOD UNLESS YOU STIR THE EMBERS AS YOU POUR.

THE OUTER SURFACE MAY BE EXTINGUISHED BUT THE INNER CASE IS STILL HOT ENOUGH TO BREAK INTO FLAME AGAIN.
ALRIGHT, UNCLE BOB, I'LL POUR AND YOU STIR.

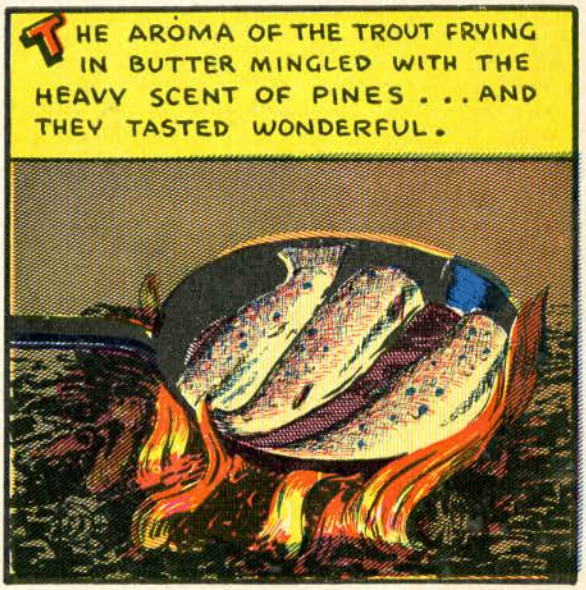
TOM FOUND THAT A BED MADE OF GREEN BALSAM BOUGHS WAS VERY COMFORTABLE BUT HIS SLEEP WAS CUT SHORT BY A RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES THAT HAD AROUSED HIS SHARPENING SENSES.
BARRY.! WAKE UP.! THERE'S A BEAR BREAKING INTO THE FOOD SACK.

SOME BEAR, TOM - BUT BE QUIET AND WE'LL SEE WHAT HE DOES....

ALTHOUGH THAT'S THE FIRST DEER WE'VE SEEN THERE ARE LOTS OUT THERE..IF THERE WERE ANY MORE IN THIS AREA THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH FOLIAGE TO FEED THEM ALL IN THE WINTER AND MANY OF THEM WOULD STARVE TO DEATH.


NEXT DAY
WE'RE NOT GOING TO FISH HERE BECAUSE I DON'T THINK WE'LL FIND EVEN ONE TROUT OF LEGAL SIZE - -THERE ARE NO OBSTRUCTIONS- ROCKS OR LOGS - TO ACT AS DEFLECTORS FOR THE WATER TO GOUGE OUT HOLES FOR THE FISH TO LIVE IN , NOR MAKE RIPPLES IN WHICH THEY CAN HIDE.

ANOTHER STREAM
THAT'S IT TOM! KEEP YOUR ROD STRAIGHT UP! KEEP YOUR LINE TIGHT! DON'T LET HIM WRAP AROUND THOSE OLD ROOTS..BRING HIM IN GENTLY..
WHOOPS! HERE'S HIS BROTHER.


THE AROMA OF THE TROUT FRYING IN BUTTER MINGLED WITH THE HEAVY SCENT OF PINES . . . AND THEY TASTED WONDERFUL.

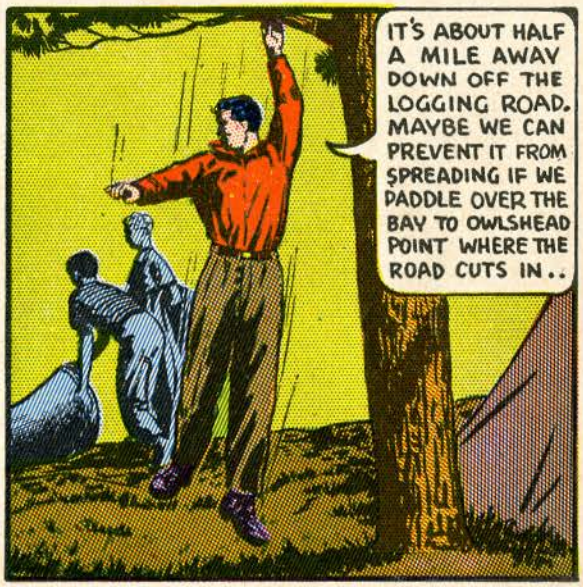
WE'LL LEAVE DAD WITH THE DISHES - HE'S AN EXPERT WHEN IT COMES TO WASHING GREASY PLATES - I'M ALL FOR DOING A LITTLE EXPLORING IN THE WOODS.

ALRIGHT, I'LL BE CAUGHT THIS TIME, BUT DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN - AND DON'T GET LOST IN THE BUSH . . .!
. . . IF YOU DO, FIND A CLEARING AND LIGHT A SMALL SIGNAL FIRE. KEEP IT SMALL AND USE GREEN BRUSH FOR LOTS OF SMOKE-WATCH IT CLOSELY - I DON'T WANT A FOREST FIRE ON OUR HANDS.

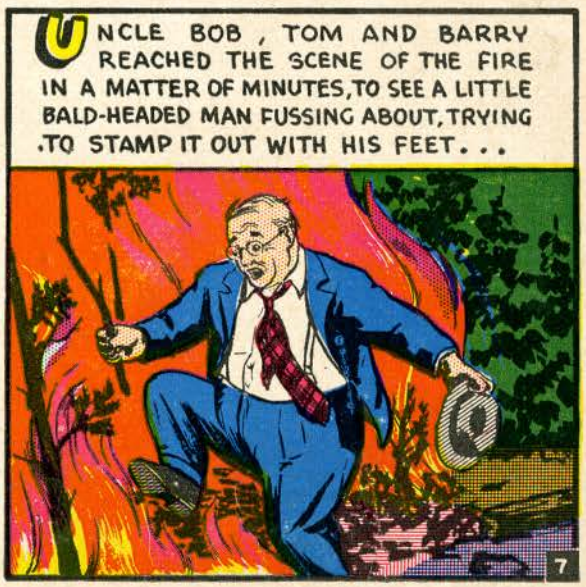
LATER
JUMPING GRASSHOPPERS! SMOKE! IT'S NOT FROM OUR CAMP FIRE. LET'S GET BACK!

DAD! DAD! THERE'S A FIRE IN THE BUSH! WE SAW THE SMOKE!
IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!

GRAB SOME BLANKETS AND THAT AXE .. I'LL SCALE THIS TREE TO SEE IF I CAN GET A LOCATION ON THE FIRE..!


IT'S ABOUT HALF A MILE AWAY DOWN OFF THE LOGGING ROAD. MAYBE WE CAN PREVENT IT FROM SPREADING IF WE PADDLE OVER THE BAY TO OWLSHEAD POINT WHERE THE ROAD CUTS IN..

IF THE BREEZE DOESN'T GET UP WE MAY HAVE A CHANCE. -SOAK THOSE BLANKETS, TOM, WE'LL USE THEM TO BEAT OUT THE FIRE .... LEAN INTO THAT PADDLE, BARRY..!

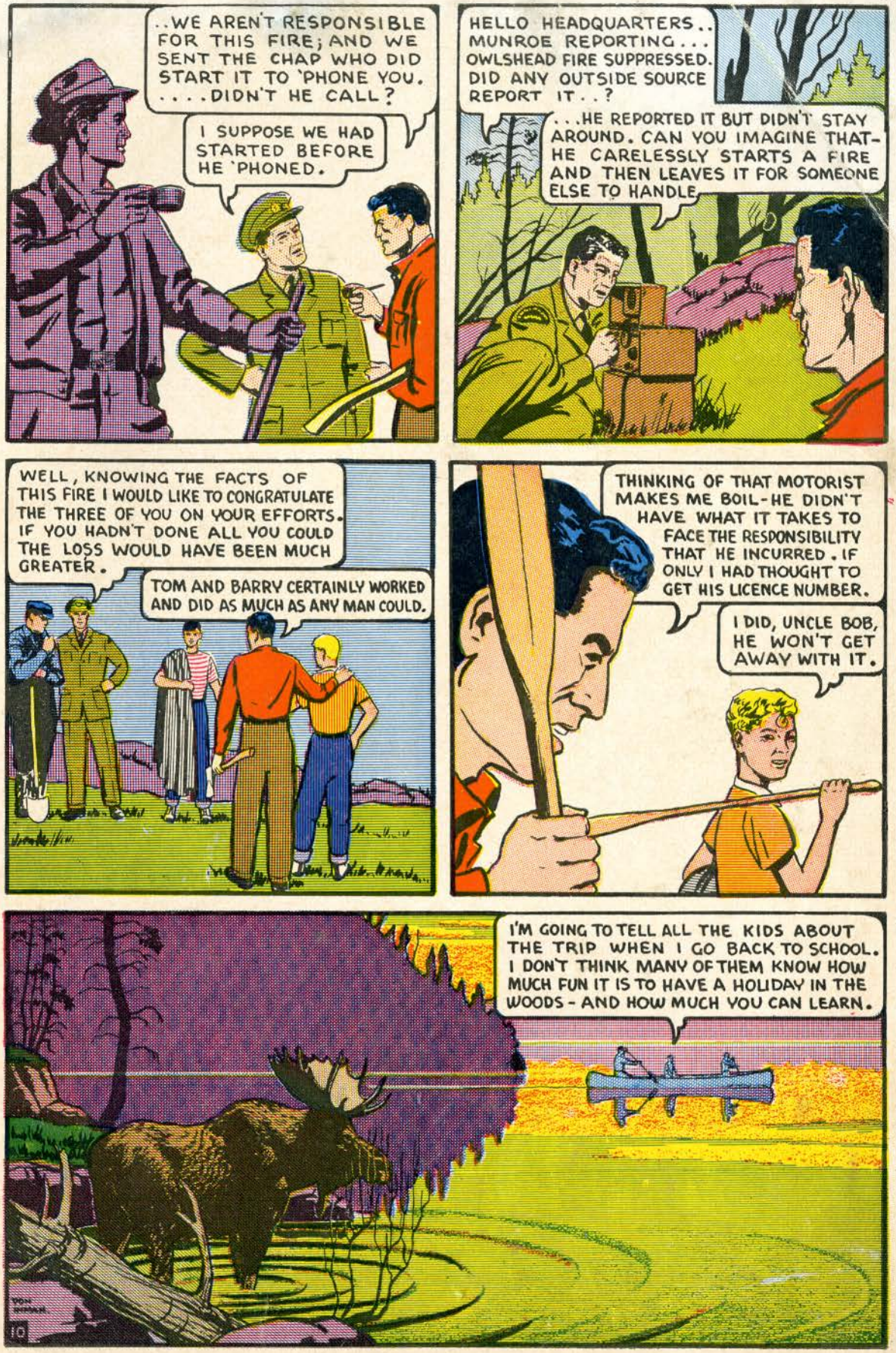

UNCLE BOB, TOM AND BARRY REACHED THE SCENE OF THE FIRE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, TO SEE A LITTLE BALD-HEADED MAN FUSSING ABOUT, TRYING TO STAMP IT OUT WITH HIS FEET...

I STOPPED FOR A BIT OF A REST....THOUGHT I'D HAVE A SMOKE....THE MATCH..I THREW IT AWAY ...GUESS IT STARTED. ..WHAT'LL WE DO ?
GET INTO YOUR CAR AND HUSTLE OUT TO THE HIGHWAY ..TURN LEFT....THERE'S A FARMER'S HOUSE FOUR MILES DOWN....'PHONE THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS HEADQUARTERS...TELL THEM WHERE THE FIRE IS!
THIS IS KILLARNEY TOWER-THERE'S A SMOKE AT TWENTY-TWO DEGREES FROM MY TOWER...SIX TO TEN MILES...IT WILL NEED A CREW.. MORE SMOKE, NOW, AND I CAN SEE THE ODD FLAME. LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT DEVELOP INTO A BAD ONE.
BUT A WATCH TOWER HAD CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF WISPS OF SMOKE...
..AND COMMUNICATED WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE.
..HAD PINPOINTED IT...
HERE COMES THE FIRE CREW! HURRY!
ALRIGHT BOYS, LET'S GET GOING WHILE IT'S STILL A SMALL ONE.

HUSTLE LAYING THAT HOSE, BOYS . . . GET THE PUMPER GOING — SWING THOSE PULASKI TOOLS - WE NEED A FIRE BREAK . . .
. . MOVE IN CLOSER WITH THOSE BACK PUMPS - GET WINDWARD WITH THE BULLDOZER, JACK, PUSH THE FIRE BACK INTO ITSELF.

LITTLE BY LITTLE THE FLAMES WERE BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL.. SANK INTO GLOWING EMBERS..AND DIED AS GALLON AFTER GALLON OF WATER WAS POURED INTO HOT, STEAMY DESOLATION . . . WHERE ACRES OF TREES HAD STOOD.

WHY DIDN'T YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH US AS SOON AS IT GOT OUT OF CONTROL? THIS FIRE MIGHT HAVE WIPED OUT THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF YOUNG AND MATURE TREES..IF THAT LOOKOUT TOWER HADN'T PICKED UP THE SMOKE AS SOON AS . . .
HOLD ON THERE..


..WE AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FIRE; AND WE SENT THE CHAP WHO DID START IT TO 'PHONE YOU. ....DIDN'T HE CALL?
I SUPPOSE WE HAD STARTED BEFORE HE 'PHONED.
HELLO HEADQUARTERS.. MUNROE REPORTING... OWLSHEAD FIRE SUPPRESSED. DID ANY OUTSIDE SOURCE REPORT IT..?
...HE REPORTED IT BUT DIDN'T STAY AROUND. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT- HE CARELESSLY STARTS A FIRE AND THEN LEAVES IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO HANDLE
WELL, KNOWING THE FACTS OF THIS FIRE I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE THREE OF YOU ON YOUR EFFORTS. IF YOU HADN'T DONE ALL YOU COULD THE LOSS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH GREATER.
TOM AND BARRY CERTAINLY WORKED AND DID AS MUCH AS ANY MAN COULD.
THINKING OF THAT MOTORIST MAKES ME BOIL-HE DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO FACE THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT HE INCURRED. IF ONLY I HAD THOUGHT TO GET HIS LICENCE NUMBER.
I DID, UNCLE BOB, HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT.
I'M GOING TO TELL ALL THE KIDS ABOUT THE TRIP WHEN I GO BACK TO SCHOOL. I DON'T THINK MANY OF THEM KNOW HOW MUCH FUN IT IS TO HAVE A HOLIDAY IN THE WOODS - AND HOW MUCH YOU CAN LEARN.
10

ABOUT 90% OF ALL FOREST FIRES ARE CAUSED BY PEOPLE..
..FLICKING CIGARETTE BUTTS OUT OF CARS..
..AND NOT MAKING SURE A MATCH IS OUT..
..FORGETTING TO PUT OUT CAMP FIRES PROPERLY..
IF ONLY PEOPLE WOULD BE CAREFUL THIS WASTE OF OUR FOREST WEALTH WOULD BE CUT TO A MINIMUM. WE DO HAVE FOREST FIRES CAUSED BY NATURAL FACTORS ... PARTICULARILY LIGHTNING. THIS CAUSE ALONE WOULD NECESSITATE THE HUGE SYSTEM WE HAVE OF FIRE DETECTION..
..BY LOOKOUT TOWERS..
..AND AERIAL PATROLS..
..AND THE PUBLIC.."
COMMUNICATION BY TELEPHONE AND RADIO, AND TRANSPORTATION, WE REACH FIRES....
..BY 'PLANE..
..BY CANOE...
..BY TRUCK...
..BY POWER BOAT..
..AND BY FOOT, WHEN WE HAVE TO, USING A PACK TRACTOR TO TRANSPORT OUR EQUIPMENT..
11

LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU CAN REMEMBER-

1. WHY DID UNCLE BOB NEED A TRAVEL PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS?
2. WHY WERE THERE ONLY SMALL FISH IN THE LAKE BEFORE DEPARTMENT CONSERVATION OFFICERS "HARVESTED" THEM?
3. WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO BUILD A CAMP FIRE?
4. WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO THE GROUND BEFORE A CAMP FIRE IS BUILT?
5. WHO ELSE, BESIDES UNCLE BOB AND THE BOYS, SAW THE FIRE?
6. HOW DO YOU PUT A CAMP FIRE OUT?
7. WHAT ARE THE WAYS THAT FOREST FIRES GET STARTED?
8. HOW IS THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED ABOUT FIRES?